



The

Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

Volume 55 Number 7

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

July 2005

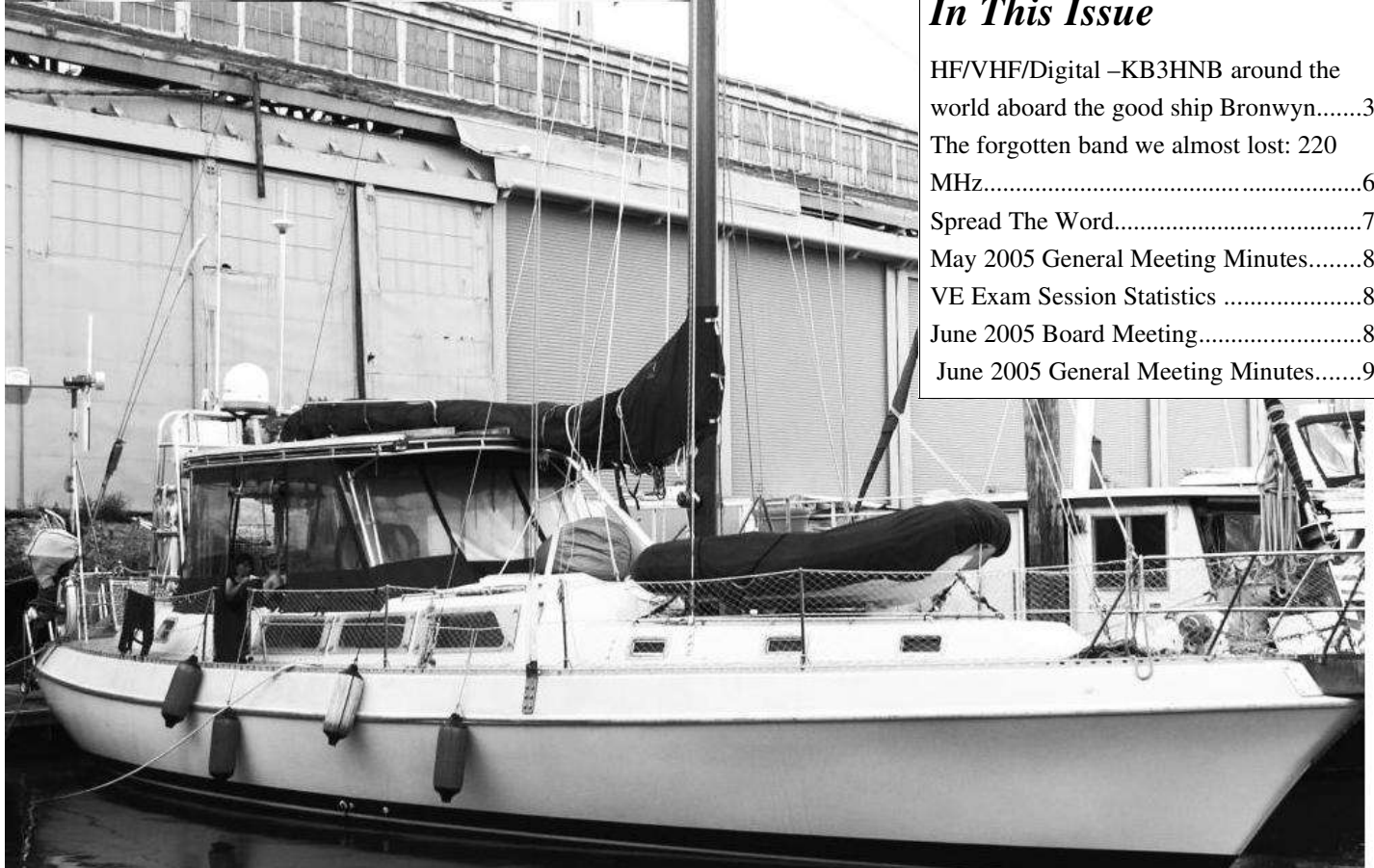


KB3HNB

*Maritime Mobile
aboard
S.V. Bronwyn*

In This Issue

HF/VHF/Digital –KB3HNB around the world aboard the good ship Bronwyn.....	3
The forgotten band we almost lost: 220 MHz.....	6
Spread The Word.....	7
May 2005 General Meeting Minutes.....	8
VE Exam Session Statistics	8
June 2005 Board Meeting.....	8
June 2005 General Meeting Minutes.....	9



The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

Editor: Maggie Leber **K3XS**

k3xs@arrl.net ☎610-630-9862 <http://voicenet.com/~maggie>

Asst. Editor and Club Archivist: Gwen Patton **NG3P**

ng3p@arrl.net ☎610-630-9862

Labels and mailing: **WB3KOJ & WB3KOH**

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

Contact Phil-mont:

P.O. Box 88

Abington, PA 19001

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

webmistress Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net

For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at

The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill

801 Ridge Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA 19444-1799

All visitors are welcome!

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at

Northeast High School,

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M.**

Sharp! Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater - Trustee: W3BBB

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

W3AA at Northeast High School -Trustee: WU3I

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA

W3EM - Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

President:W3STW

Al Tribble

2848 Carter Rd.

Trevoise PA 19053

wstw@juno.com

Vice President:W3AOK

Bill Popovic

343 Lemonte St

Philadelphia PA 19128

bill.popovic@verizon.net

Secretary:N3QV

Eric Marano

2382 Schlosser Rd

Harleysville PA 19438

n3qv@arrl.net

Treasurer: W3RM

Richard A. Moll

roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT

Micheal P. Taraborrelli
michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

Directors: KB3IV(06), K3XS(06), N3FH(06),W3BBB(05), N3MT (05), N3XKE (05), WU3I (A)

Committees

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Awards: open

Blurb folding:

WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Directory:WB3KOJ

DX: N3MT

Emerg.Coop.: K3HWE

Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS

Membership: KB3IV

Net Control: KB3IV

Publicity: W3RM

Program: Club VP

Public Service: KE3QB

Refreshments: W3AOK

Repeater: W3BBB

Skywarn: WX3PHI

Sunshine: N3GLU

Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS

VE Program: ND3Q

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

Welcome: K3CJ.

HF/VHF/Digital –KB3HNB around the world aboard the good ship *Bronwyn*

Phil-Mont member Bob Hill KB3HNB was kind enough to invite the Blurb editorial staff for a visit aboard his 51' cutter the *S.V. Bronwyn* to see all the systems he has engineered into this impressive vessel for his impending sailing voyage around the world, now that he has retired.

He has assembled systems which should keep him very

much in touch with the world, through both commercial and amateur band PACTOR HF circuits, as well as supplying him with current weather fax information.

When in range of the global amateur VHF APRS network, he'll be able to make position reports and send short text messages, including possibly relaying though the packet

station aboard the International Space Station when conditions are favorable.

His equipment includes an Icom M802 Ham and Marine HF transceiver, an Icom M502 Marine VHF transceiver, a Pactor II PRO modem for HF packet email and weather fax, a Kenwood D700A for amateur VHF/UHF APRS multiple GPS receivers, gyro-stabilized tracking satellite TV receiver, wind, solar and motor-driven electrical power sources, on-board water



The general arrangement of the navigation station below decks on the S.V. Bronwyn. All shipboard power, navigation and communications are controllable from this station. Your editor has done her best to label the gear accurately; any errors are hers!



The man-overboard alarm. A potential electronic lifesaver!

desalinization, and automatic emergency beacon equipped lifejackets that automatically trigger a emergency alarm and provide rescue guidance to the helm station in the event of a man-overboard situation.

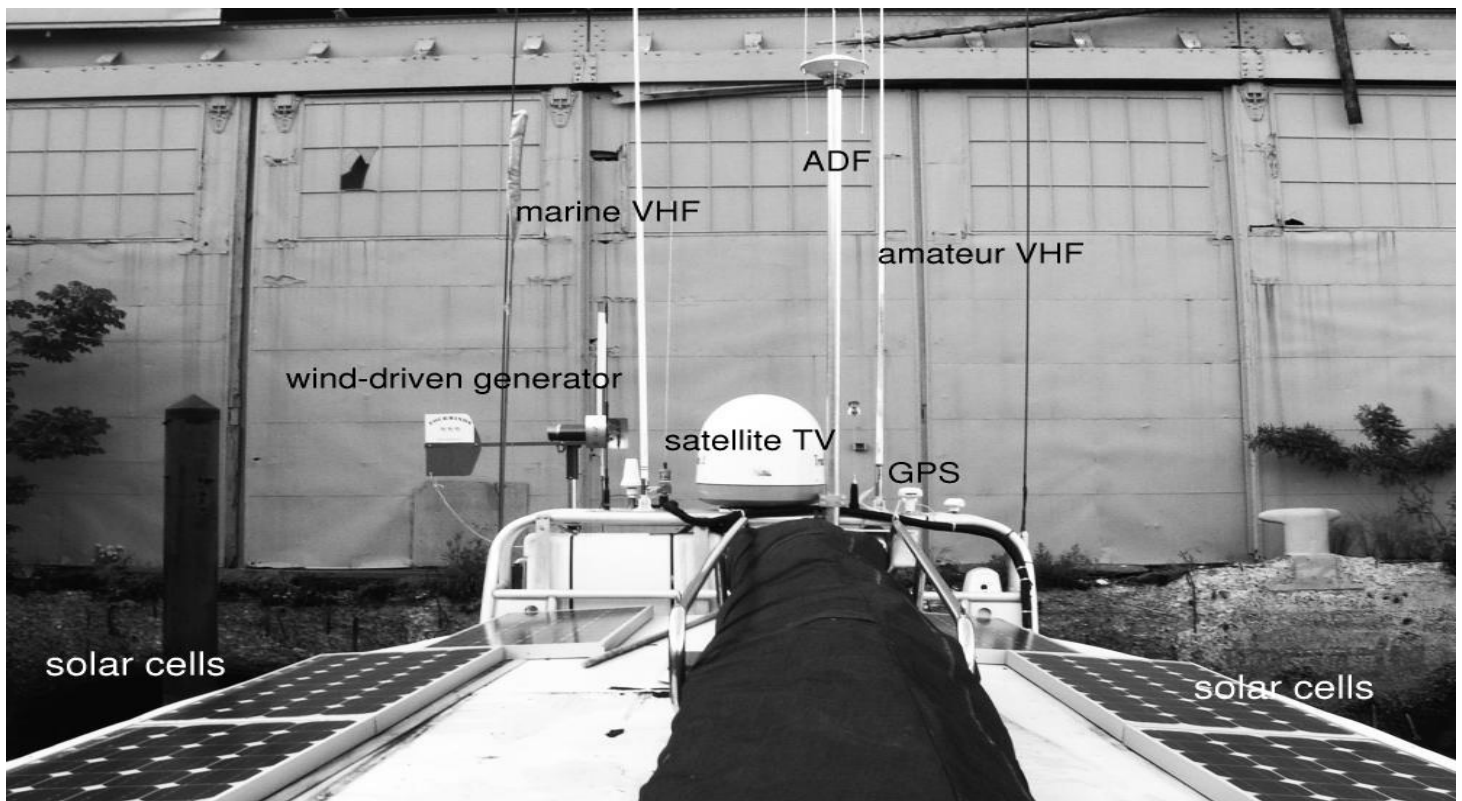


Bob at the helm. In addition to all necessary navigation instruments, a video display here is slaved to the display of the laptop computer at the navigation station, providing a GPS moving-map display. (or perhaps web-surfing, if things are boring while within cell-phone coverage!)



Many thanks to Bob and his XYL Valerie for making us welcome aboard the Bronwyn! We hope to hear from Bob in coming days though email, the Phil-Mont HF nets, and Echolink to keep us posted on their travels and adventures.





*The view aft from topside forward on the **Bronwyn**. Once again, we've done our best to label things correctly, but there's a lot going on here! Note provisions for both wind and solar power, the battery bank should stay well-charged without burning much fuel*



Bob at the navigation station, as seen from the ladder up to the cockpit.

The forgotten band we almost lost: 220 MHz

By Steve K3PHL and Laura KB3LRA

After purchasing a 220 MHz FM handheld at a hamfest in summer of 2001, I began to scan this 3 MHz segment of spectrum to find several area repeaters but next to no activity on them whatsoever. After watching this handheld scan for hours and sometimes days without the squelch opening my surprise turned into concern. So how many amateur operators in our area are active on 220 MHz outside of that one weekend in September every year? Not as many as you might think. Knowing that 220 falls between the 2 meter and 440 band which are so popular in our area and around the country why doesn't 220 share the same amount of usage? This sparked my interest into learning about the history of this band and what I could do to get active in a big way.

The 220 band originated in 1938 when the FCC granted us two new bands at the Cairo conference. At the time amateurs were given the 2.5 meter band (112 MHz) which was later reallocated to the current 2 meter assignment 144-148 MHz and 1.25 meters known at the time as 224 MHz and later (220-225 MHz). For nearly thirty years there was hardly a peep on the band outside of the brave souls who built some AM boxes and talked locally on this "secret band".

Beginning in the late 60's and into

the 70's there was an explosion of popularity in the 2 meter and 70 cm bands, primarily fueled by the availability of commercial radio gear. 2-Way radio equipment from the public safety bands adjacent to 2 meters and 440 was easily modifiable to amateur frequencies. Unfortunately, this surge never made its way to 220 because there were no public safety channels near 1.25 meters. If you wanted to get on the band, you had to build your own or buy the relatively few and expensive radios at the time made by Clegg, Cobra, Wilson or Midland.

There is a very good reason why through the 70's and 80's there was little gear available for 220. The allocation 220-225 is only available in ITU Region 2 (North and South America). This means that Japanese radio manufacturers can't market 220 radios in Europe and Asia. This was a marketing roadblock that led to only a relative few models designed and sold here. An attempt to change that occurred in 1987 when the FCC helped hams get more active on 220 by allowing Novice class operators use of the band with power up to 25 watts. The big three (Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood) began to market radios for the band and several models were introduced in late 1987 and 1988. However, trouble was brewing and sales were not as brisk as hoped. The package delivery service UPS was lobbying the FCC for use of our precious spectrum on 220 in the mid 80s. After much opposition by the ham radio

community, in 1988 the bottom 2 MHz (220-222) was taken away from hams in the USA while we kept the remaining 3 MHz (222-225). It is always a tough pill to swallow when we lose frequencies to operate. What hurt even more was that since the FCC took so long to act on the UPS request, the package company used cellular frequencies to build their network instead and abandoned 220. The FCC then sold 220-222 to commercial interests in a lottery to develop narrow band voice technology. This technology was not considered viable and most of it was abandoned as well. Now 220-222 is used even less than it was what it was an amateur allocation.

So where does that leave 222-225 today? Open and available. There are over 1000 repeaters listed in the most recent ARRL repeater directory. Laura and I built, own and maintain 2 repeaters in our area on the band. For those of you who have never been on 220, here is what to expect. 220 is that VHF band that has the same signal propagation distance as 2 meters but has more urban building penetration and smaller antennas like 440. 220 also has a lower noise floor due to the lack of close proximity public safety channels.

Despite what you may think, new 220 gear is sold today. Alinco markets a very fine 220 MHz mobile and handheld, ADI makes a mobile rig and Kenwood and Yaesu have multiband handhelds with low power 220 options to "try the band".

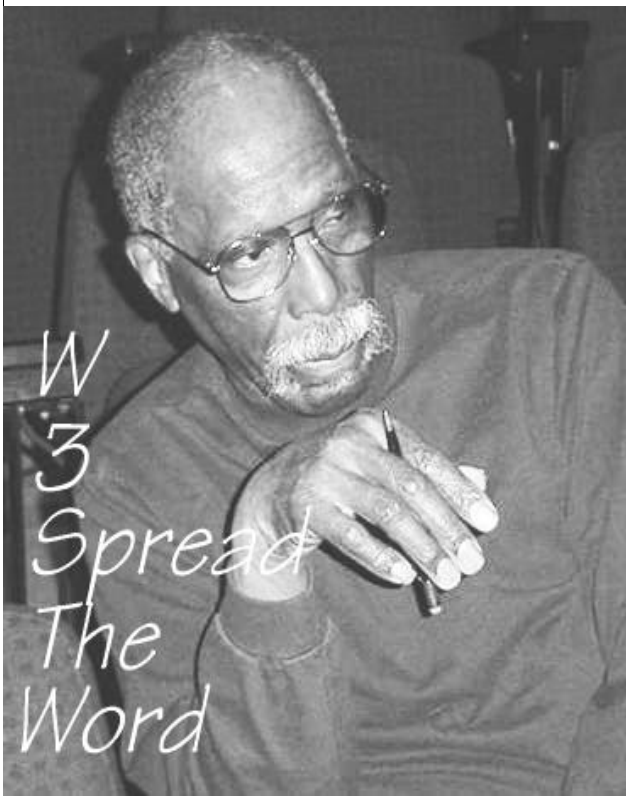


photo: WA3KIO

Spread The Word

--de Al W3STW, PMRC President

'Twas great to see so many members attending the June '05 general meeting wearing their club badge, Gene N3XKE handed out the badges he made. I thank all that are participating in the drive to wear your club badge at club functions. It is to late to tell you to reach back in your amateur radio experiences and come up with an article to share with the rest of the membership for the July issue of the Blurb, but the request is indeed in time for the August

Blurb. Take a look at your station, take a look at your log, I hope you still keep one, and I'll bet there is something of interest not only to you but the rest of us also. How many of you have a digital camera, and can display the pictures on a computer screen? Can you hook your radio up to the computer too? If you can and can get a sstv program installed on the computer that has a sound card, you have come a long way to being able

to join me Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 to 8:00 P.M., on 145.7 MHz (FM) for a little slow scan activity. If you have any questions about making that computer with sound card to radio connection give me a shout, together we may be able to work it out. I'd be happy to give a demo at a future general meeting if you, the membership, would like. I ask because I given a demo before and got no takers, so if you're interested talk it up on the repeater or give me a phone call etc. Many thanks for the great presentation given at the June '05 general meeting by Gwen, NG3P and Maggie, K3XS, on their Elecraft transceiver construction project and demonstration of a variable band antenna. Thanks to the guests attending the June '05 meeting and if their returning to a future meeting is in some way connected to the refreshments brought in by Bill, W3AOK, well their return is a shoo-in. The refreshments were magnificent, thank you Bill.

Spread The Word, Al 73.

May 2005 Board Meeting

The Board of the Directors for the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club held a meeting at the WDRV radio station in Hatboro, PA, on May 4, 2005. President Al W3STW presiding called the meeting to order at 7:55 P.M. with the following attending and voting: Ed KB3IV, Maggie K3XS, Jim W3BBB, Dick W3RM, Ra N3FH, Steve WU3I, and Eric N3QV.

W3RM reported that the PMRC Treasury is in good shape.

Maggie K3XS reported on the status of the Blurb, all is going well

Ed KB3IV reported on the status of the nets stating that the nets are going well.

Steve WU3I on W3AA noted that the Station is in good shape.

Jim W3BBB reported on the repeater system. All 3 off-sites are in good shape.

Al W3STW asks all to remember to wear your badge. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse \$5.00 to Gene N3XKE per badge made for the club.

There being no further business, upon motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV
Secretary

May 2005 General Meeting Minutes

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club held a General meeting at The Masonic Village in Lafayette Hill, PA, on May 11, 2005. President Al W3STW presiding called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M.

Dick W3RM reported that the Board approved field day shirts. He also stated to let people know to file paper work for scholarships.

Ed KB3IV reported on Net Activity stating the nets are going well. Participation has been great.

Steve WU3I reported on W3AA at Northeast High School, a space shot simulation took place today. Offsite report – Delaware County is up and working. All other off sites are working.

Al W3STW talked about the publicity that amateur radio is receiving and not receiving. Please wear your badge at meetings and PMRC events. New badges are available from Gene N3XKE.

Maggie K3XS reported on the blurb and asked for submissions of materials for summer months.

Dusty ND3Q reported that there were 2 candidates for the May VE Session and both passed. The next VE Session is on Thursday June 2nd. In September the VE Session will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Carmen KE3QB, reported that help is needed for the September MS-150.

Mike N3MT, DX Committee chairman, reported that DX is in good shape. He would like to have more youngsters involved.

Carmen KE3QB, field day chairman, Showed film Amateur Radio Today, narrated by Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, on role of hams in times of emergency. Went over history of PMRC. Field Day past- present-future. Listed field day captains. Need enough volunteers to put up towers.

There being no further business, upon motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV
Secretary

June 2005 Board Meeting

The Board of the Directors for the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club held a meeting at the WDRV radio station in Hatboro, PA, on June 1, 2005. Ed KB3IV presiding called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. with the following attending and voting: Gene N3XKE, Maggie K3XS, Jim W3BBB, Dick W3RM, Ra N3FH, Steve WU3I, and Eric N3QV.

W3RM reported on treasury, treasury is in good shape. A motion was made, seconded and the board approved \$2000 dollars to be



226th Monthly Phil-Mont

VE Exam Session Statistics for June 2 2005

Four candidates took eight elements, and we had three upgrades and one new amateur. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were :
JIM MCCLOSKEY NS3K
GENE DINARDI N3XKE

Upcoming Exam Sessions:

(See page 2 for details)

funded to the N3FTC Scholarship for 2006.

Maggie K3XS reported on the status of the Blurb, all is going well.

Ed KB3IV reported on the status of the nets stating that they are going well. He also reported that all is in order for field day according to Carmen and the MS-150 is coming up soon.

Steve WU3I on W3AA noted that the Station is in good shape and on summer hiatus.

Jim W3BBB reported on the repeater system. Southampton is out for service.

A motion was made and approved to allow SATERN use of the W3QV repeater system during declared emergencies and weekly nets.

There being no further business, upon motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV
Secretary

N3FTC, Memorial Scholarship" at \$2,000, the same amount as the annual Haring Scholarship award.

Steve, WU3I, reported on activities at club station W3AA, at the Northeast High School, with the reminder that the station is now closed until school classes resume in September. Dusty, ND3Q, announced the VE exam results for the June 2 session, and also reminded everyone that no VE exams will be administered during the summer school vacation in July and August. Tentatively, he has set the next exam session for the second Thursday in September, with the date to be confirmed.

Jennifer Miller, KB3MIV, was introduced and welcomed as a visitor to the meeting. She was one of the successful examinees at our June 2nd. VE session, and received her license grant on June 7. Jen submitted an application for Phil-Mont membership at the meeting.

Carmen, KE3QB, FD chairman, distributed the Field Day shirts and pins to those who ordered them. He also reviewed the FD preparations, and stated that, provided enough manpower shows

up, the antenna towers will be erected Friday afternoon, after 2 p.m.

W3AOK introduced the evening's program, a well produced power point presentation by Maggie, K3XS, and Gwen, NG3P, on their construction of an Elecraft Model K2 Transceiver Kit for CW & SSB on the HF bands. Following the presentation, their K2 was demonstrated on an indoor antenna.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

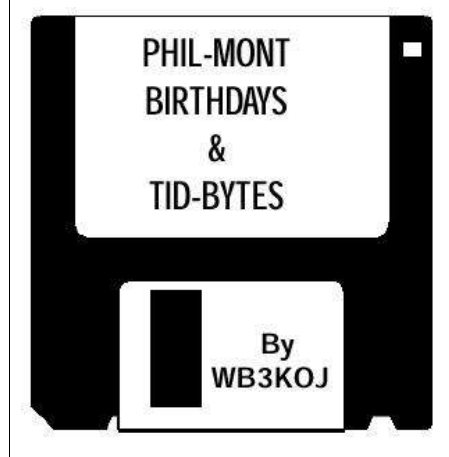
Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV,
Secretary

June 2005 General Meeting Minutes

The Phil-Mont June General Meeting, held at the Masonic Village, Lafayette Hill, on June 15th., was convened at 8:00 p.m. by Al, W3STW, with 28 members and visitors in attendance.

W3RM reported that he is awaiting notification, from the Foundation for Amateur Radio's scholarship committee, of the recipient of this year's "Claude H.Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship." Dick noted that we usually receive that information prior to Field Day weekend. He also announced that the Directors, at their June meeting, formally authorized the amount of the grant to be awarded with the 2006 "Joann Hoch,



July Birthdays

01 Nick Sparozic - AA3WA
02 Ted Katz - N3OWM
Alice Popovic (XYL W3AOK)
03 Nicole Bohlander (XYL WA3KLR)
04 Marion Blum (XYL W3PTB)
10 Natalie Gordon - WB3KOH
James Perry - W3JRP
12 Grace Smith (XYL K3GBA)
14 Larry Clifford - W3UY
19 Christine Fichera (XYL KB3DQH)
20 Valerie Hill (XYL KB3HNB)
23 Art Weiner - WX3PHI
25 Jinny Haring - W3IIN
27 Robert Hill - KB3HNB
29 Jim Larkin - KA2FFP
31 Steve Hoch - WU3I

Membership Stats

At press time P.M.R.C. has:
95 FULL PAID MEMBERS
10 FAMILY MEMBERS

1 YOUTH
1 PENDING MEMBERS
0 HONORARY MEMBERS

News flash!

This just in: Benjamin E. Jack “Benji”, N3VYA, has been awarded the Claude H.Haring Jr.W3IIM Memorial Scholarship for 2006 by the Foundation for Amatur Radio. Benji is currently a full-time student at Columbia University.

The Phil-Mont Scholarship Fund established this scholarship in memory of W3IIM, a long-time PMRC member and also editor of the Blurb for many years.

Congratulations, Benji!

JULY 2005 with PMRC	
Fri 01	
Sat 02	
Sun 03	NCS: 2m K3XS HF:N3QV
Mon 04	Independence Day
Tue 05	
Wed 06	Summer break – no meetings
Thu 07	Summer break - no VE exams
Fri 08	
Sat 09	
Sun 10	NCS: 2m K3XS HF:N3QV
Mon 11	
Tue 12	
Wed 13	Summer break – no meetings
Thu 14	
Fri 15	
Sat 16	
Sun 17	NCS: 2M WU3I – HF:KB3IV
Mon 18	
Tue 19	
Wed 20	
Thu 21	
Fri 22	
Sat 23	
Sun 24	NCS: 2m WB3KOJ HF: W3STW
Mon 25	
Tue 26	
Wed 27	
Thu 28	
Fri 29	
Sat 30	
Sun 31	NCS: 2M: W3BBB 75m W3BBB

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blurb